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# **LIBRARY LAWS OF MONTANA**

COMPILED FROM  
REVISED CODES OF MONTANA, 1947  
WITH AMENDMENTS THROUGH 1967

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**MONTANA STATE LIBRARY**  
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**1967**



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## TITLE 44—LIBRARIES

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### CHAPTER 1—THE STATE LIBRARY OF MONTANA

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**44-127. (1575.1) State library commission created.** A commission is hereby created to be known as the state library commission. This commission shall consist of the librarian of the state university, the state superintendent of public instruction, ex officio member, and the three members to be appointed by the governor, who shall serve one, two and three years, respectively. As these terms expire, annually thereafter one person shall be appointed, for a term of three years. The commission shall annually elect a chairman from its membership. The members of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services except their actual and necessary expenses.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1; Ch. 55, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1965.

Amendment  
The 1965 amendment deleted "as chairman" after "librarian of the state university" in the second sentence; and inserted the fourth sentence.

**44-128. (1575.2) Employment of librarian and assistants.** The commission shall employ as its executive officer a librarian who shall be a graduate of an accredited library school, and who

shall not be a member of the commission, for such compensation as the commission may deem adequate, and who shall perform the duties assigned by the commission, to serve at the will of the commission. The commission may also employ such other assistants as shall be required for the performance of the commission's work. In addition to their salaries, the librarian and assistants shall be allowed their mileage and per diem while absent from the commission office in the service of the commission.

#### **44-129, 44-130. (1575.3, 1575.4) Repealed.**

Repeal  
These sections (Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 91, L. 1945; Sec. 3, Ch. 55, L. 1961), relating to powers and

duties of the state library commission, were repealed by Sec. 3, Ch. 215, Laws 1965.

**44-131. Powers of state library commission.** The state library commission shall have the power: (1) To give assistance and advice to all tax-supported or public libraries in the state and to all counties, cities, towns or regions in the state which may propose to establish libraries, as to the best means of establishing and improving such libraries;

(2) To maintain and operate the state library and make provision for its housing;

(3) To accept and to expend in accordance with the terms thereof any grant of federal funds which may become available to the state for library purposes;

(4) To make rules and regulations and establish standards for the administration of the state library, and for the control, distribution and lending of books and materials;

(5) To serve as the agency of the state to accept and administer any state, federal or private funds or property appropriated for or granted to it for library service or to foster libraries in the state and to establish regulations under which funds shall be dispersed;

(6) To provide library services for the blind;

(7) To furnish, by contract or otherwise, library assistance and information services to state officials, state departments and residents of those parts of the state inadequately serviced by libraries;

(8) To act as a state board of professional standards and library examiners and develop standards for public libraries and adopt rules and regulations for the certification of librarians.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 215, L. 1965.

Title of Act

An act amending section 44-127, R. C. M. 1947, defining the powers and duties of the state library commission; and repealing sections 44-129 and 44-130, R. C. M. 1947.

Repealing Clause

Section 3 of Ch. 215, Laws 1965 read "Sections 44-129 and 44-130, R. C. M. 1947, are repealed."

**44-132. Definitions. As used in this act:**

(1) "Print" includes all forms of printing and duplicating, regardless of format or purpose, with the exception of correspondence and interoffice memoranda.

(2) "State publication" includes any document, compilation, journal, law, resolution, bluebook, statute, code, register, pamphlet, list, book, proceedings, report, memorandum, hearing, legislative bill, leaflet, order, regulation, directory, periodical or magazine issued in print, or purchased for distribution, by the state, the legislature, constitutional officers, any state department, committee or other state agency supported wholly or in part by state funds.

(3) "State agency" includes every state office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, commission and agency of the state, and, where applicable, all subdivisions of each.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

Title of Act

An act to create a state publications library distribution center as a division of the state

library and amending section 82-1916, R. C. M. 1947, relating to printing and distribution of state reports and providing for reimbursements for additional publications.

**44-133. Creation of distribution center—state library commission to make regulations.** There is hereby created as a division of the state library, and under the direction of the state librarian, a state publications library distribution center. The center shall promote the establishment of an orderly depository library system. To this end the state library commission shall make such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

**44-134. Depositing of state agency publications—additional copies—inter-library loan—sale publications.** Every state agency shall upon release deposit at least four copies of each of its state publications with the state library for record and depository purposes. Additional copies shall also be deposited, in quantities certified to the agencies by the state library as required to meet the needs of the depository library system and

to provide inter-library loan service to those libraries without depository status. Additional copies of sale publications required by the state library shall be furnished only upon reimbursement to the state agency of the full cost of such sale publications, and the state library shall also reimburse any state agency for additional publications so required, where the quantity desired will necessitate additional printing or other expense to such agency.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 261,  
L. 1967.

Cross-Reference  
Printing and publications of  
state agencies and offices, sec.  
82-1916.

**44-135. Depository contracts — eligibility requirements — standards.** The center shall enter into depository contracts with any municipal or county free library, state college or state university library, the library of congress and the midwest inter-library center, and other state libraries. The requirements for eligibility to contract as a depository library shall be established by the state library commission upon recommendations of the state librarian. The standards shall include and take into consideration the type of library, ability to preserve such publications and to make them available for public use, and also such geographical locations as will make the publications conveniently accessible to residents in all areas of the state.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

**44-136. List of available publications.** The center shall publish and distribute regularly to contracting depository libraries and other libraries upon request a list of available state publications.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

**44-137. State agency lists of current publications.** Upon request by the center, issuing state agencies shall furnish the center with a complete list of its current state publications and a copy of its mailing and/or exchange lists.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

**44-138. Restriction on general public distribution.** The center shall not engage in general public distribution of either state publications or lists of publications.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

**44-139. Exempt state agencies and officers.** This act shall not apply to nor affect the duties concerning publications distributed by, or officers of:

(1) The state law library;

(2) The secretary of state in connection with his duties under sections 12-317, 82-2202 (17) and 82-2203, R.C.M. 1947.  
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 261, L. 1967.

## CHAPTER 2—COUNTY, CITY AND REGIONAL FREE LIBRARIES

- Section 44-213. Participation of other governmental units.  
44-214. Board of trustees—appointment and term.  
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44-219. Establishing public library—resolution—petition.  
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44-226. Cities or towns with existing tax-supported libraries—notification—exemption from county taxes.  
44-227. “City” defined.  
44-228. Continued existence of all public libraries.

### **44-201 to 44-210. (4563 to 4572) Repealed.**

Repeal	1943; Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1949),
These sections (Secs. 1 to 10,	relating to county and regional
Ch. 45, L. 1915; Secs. 1 to 4,	free libraries were repealed
Ch. 137, L. 1917; Sec. 1. Ch. 56,	by Sec. 12, Ch. 260, Laws 1967.
L. 1923; Secs. 1 to 3, Ch. 202, L.	

**44-211. How libraries of city or town may assume functions of county library.** Instead of establishing a separate county free library, the board of county commissioners may enter into a contract with the board of library trustees, or other authority in charge of the free public library of any incorporated city or town, and the board of library trustees, or other authority in charge of such free public library, is hereby authorized to make such a contract. Such contract may provide that the free public library of such incorporated city or town shall assume the functions of a county free library within the county with which such contract is made, and the board of county commissioners may agree to pay out of the county free library fund into the library fund of such incorporated city or town such sum as may be agreed upon. Either party to such contract may terminate the same by giving six months' notice of intention to do so.

#### **44-212. Joint county or regional libraries—establishment.**

Two (2) or more counties, by action of their boards of county commissioners, may join in establishing and maintaining a joint county or regional library under the terms of a contract to which all will agree. The expenses of the joint county or regional library shall be apportioned between or among the counties concerned on such a basis as shall be agreed upon in the contract. The treasurer of one of the counties, as shall be provided in the contract, shall have the custody of the funds of the joint county or regional library; and the treasurers of the other counties concerned shall transfer quarterly to him all moneys collected for the "free library fund" in their respective counties. If the board of county commissioners of any county decides to withdraw from a joint county or regional library contract, the county shall be entitled to a division of property in the same proportions as expenses were shared. Any library district organized under the provisions hereof, may, by majority vote of the qualified voters present and voting at a legal meeting of either of the counties which comprise said district, dissolve its cooperative existence.

**44-213. Participation of other governmental units.** When a joint county or regional library shall have been established, the legislative body of any government unit therein that is maintaining a library may decide, with the concurrence of the board of trustees of its library, to participate in the joint county or regional library; after which, beginning with the next fiscal year of the county, the government unit shall participate in the joint county or regional library and its residents shall be entitled to the benefits of the joint county or regional library, and property within its boundaries shall be subject to taxation for joint county or regional library purposes. A governmental unit participating in the joint county or regional library may retain title to its own property, continue its own board of library trustees, and may levy its own taxes for library purposes; or, by a majority vote of the qualified electors, a governmental unit may transfer, conditionally or otherwise, the ownership and control of its library, with all or any of its property, to another governmental unit which is providing or will provide free library service in the territory of the former, and the trustees or body making the transfer shall thereafter be relieved of responsibility pertaining to the property transferred. The state board of education may contract with the government of any city or county, or the governments of both the city and the county, in which a unit of the university of Montana is located for the establishment and operation of joint library facilities. Any such contract which proposes the erection of a building shall be sub-

ject to the approval of the legislature. Any joint library facilities established pursuant to this section shall be operated and supported as provided in such contract under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 132,  
L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249,  
L. 1963.

**Amendment**

The 1963 amendment added the third, fourth, and fifth sentences.

**Effective Date**

Section 2 of Ch. 249, Laws

1963 provided the act should be in effect from and after its passage and approval. Approved March 11, 1963.

**Cross-Reference**

Building specifications for accommodation of handicapped persons, secs. 69-3701 to 69-3719.

**44-214. Board of trustees—appointment and term.** In a joint county or regional library district the board of five trustees shall be appointed by the joint action of all the county commissioners in the district. The first appointments or elections shall be for terms of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), and five (5) years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed or elected annually to serve for five (5) years. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner in which members of the board are regularly chosen. A trustee shall not receive a salary or other compensation for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually incurred shall be paid from the library fund. A library trustee may be removed only by vote of the legislative body. Trustees shall serve no more than two full terms in succession.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 132,  
L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 260,  
L. 1967.

**Amendments**

The 1967 amendment added the last sentence.

**44-215. Appropriations for support of joint libraries.** After a joint county or regional library shall have been established or library service contracted for, the legislative body of the governmental unit for which the library was established or the service engaged, shall appropriate money annually for the support of the library and so far as possible, the taxes levied and collected for this purpose shall be levied and collected within the territory to be served. The board of trustees shall have the exclusive control of expenditures from the fund subject to any examination of accounts required by the state and money shall be paid from the fund only upon vouchers of the board of trustees, without further audit. The board shall not make expenditures or incur indebtedness in any year in excess of the amount of money appropriated and available for library purposes.

#### **44-216, 44-217. Repealed.**

##### **Repeal**

These sections (Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 132, L. 1939), relating to tax levies and librarians for joint

county or regional libraries. were repealed by Sec. 12, Ch. 260, Laws 1967.

#### **44-218. Purpose of act in regard to free public libraries. It**

is the purpose of this act to encourage the establishment, adequate financing, and effective administration of free public libraries in this state to give the people of Montana the fullest opportunity to enrich and inform themselves through reading.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

##### **Title of Act**

An act providing for the creation, maintenance and operation of public libraries in counties and cities and repealing

sections 44-201, 44-202, 44-203, 44-204, 44-205, 44-206, 44-207, 44-208, 44-209, 44-210, 44-216, 44-217, 44-301, 44-302, 44-303, and 11-704, R. C. M. 1947; amending section 44-214, R. C. M., 1947.

**44-219. Establishing public library—resolution—petition.** A public library may be established in any county or city in either of the following ways:

(1) The governing body of any county or city desiring to establish and maintain a public library may pass and enter upon its minutes a resolution to the effect that a free public library is established under the provision of Montana laws relating to public libraries.

(2) By petition signed by not less than ten per centum (10%) of the resident taxpayers whose names appear upon the last completed assessment roll of the city or county being filed with the governing body requesting the establishment of a public library. The governing body of a city or county shall set a time of meeting at which they may by resolution establish a public library; the governing body shall give notice of the contemplated action in a newspaper of general circulation for two consecutive weeks giving therein the date and place of the meeting at which the contemplated action is proposed to be taken.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-220. Levying of tax—special library fund—payments upon order or warrant.** The governing body of any city or county which has established a public library may levy in the same manner and at the same time as other taxes are levied a special tax not to exceed 3 mills on the dollar upon all property in such county, which may be levied by the governing body of such county, and not to exceed 4½ mills on the dollar upon all prop-

erty in such city or town, which may be levied by the governing body of such city or town, in the amount necessary to maintain adequate public library service. The proceeds of such tax shall constitute a separate fund called the public library fund and shall not be used for any purpose except those of the public library. No money shall be paid out of the public library fund by the treasurer of the city or county except by order or warrant of the board of library trustees.

Bonds may be issued by the governing body in the manner prescribed by law for the erection and equipment of public library buildings and the purchase of land therefor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-221. Board of trustees — appointment — composition of board — tenure.** Upon the establishment of a public library under the provisions of this act, the mayor, with the advice and consent of the city council or city commissioners, shall appoint a board of trustees for the city library and the chairman of the board of county commissioners, with the advice and consent of said board, shall appoint a board of trustees for the county library. The library board shall consist of five trustees. Not more than one member of the governing body shall be, at any one time, a member of such board. Trustees shall serve without compensation but their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties may be paid from library funds. Trustees shall hold their office for five years from the date of appointment, and until their successors are appointed. Initially appointments shall be made for one, two, three, four and five year terms. Annually thereafter, there shall be appointed before the first day of July of each year in the same manner as the original appointments for a five year term, a trustee to take the place of the retiring trustee. Trustees shall serve no more than two full terms in succession. Following such appointments in July of each year, the trustees shall meet and elect a chairman and such other officers as they deem necessary, for one year terms. Vacancies in the board of trustees shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-222. Board of trustees — powers and duties.** The library board of trustees shall have exclusive control of the expenditure of the public library fund, of construction or lease of library buildings, and of the operation and care of the library. The library board of trustees of every public library shall:

(1) Adopt bylaws, rules and regulations for its own transaction of business and for the government of the library, not inconsistent with law.

(2) Establish and locate a central public library and may establish branches thereof at such places as are deemed necessary.

(3) Have the power to contract, including the right to contract with regions, counties, cities, school districts, educational institutions, the state library and other libraries to give and receive library service, through the boards of such regions, counties and cities and the district school boards, and to pay out or receive funds to pay costs of such contracts.

(4) Have the power to acquire by purchase, devise, lease or otherwise, and to own and hold real and personal property, in the name of the city or county or both as the case may be, for the use and purposes of the library, and to sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of property real or personal when no longer required by the library, and to insure the real and personal property of the library.

(5) Pay necessary expenses of members of the library staff when on business of the library.

(6) Prepare an annual budget indicating what support and maintenance of the public library will be required from public funds for submission to the appropriate agency of the governing body. A separate budget request shall be submitted for new construction or for capital improvement of existing library property.

(7) Make an annual report to the governing body of the city or county on the condition and operation of the library, including a financial statement. The trustees shall also provide for the keeping of such records as shall be required by the Montana State Library in its request for an annual report from the public libraries and shall submit such an annual report to the state library.

(8) Have the power to accept gifts, grants and donations from whatever source and to expend the same for the specific purpose of the gift, grant, or donation. These gifts, grants and donations shall be kept separate from regular library funds and are not subject to reversion at the end of the fiscal year.

(9) Exercise such other powers, not inconsistent with law, necessary for the effective use and management of the library.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-223. Board of trustees—chief librarian—personnel—compensation.** The board of trustees of each library shall appoint and set the compensation of the chief librarian who shall serve as the secretary of the board and shall serve at the pleasure of

the board. With the recommendation of the chief librarian the board shall employ and discharge such other persons as may be necessary in the administration of the affairs of the library, fix and pay their salaries and compensation and prescribe their duties.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-224. Free use of library — exclusions — extending privileges.** Every library established under the provisions of this act shall be free to the use of the inhabitants of the city or the county supporting such library. The board may exclude from the use of the library any and all persons who shall willfully violate the rules of the library. The board may extend the privileges and use of the library to persons residing outside of the city or county upon such terms and conditions as it may prescribe by its regulations.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-225. Providing library services—co-operation and merging of boards, institutions and agencies.** Library boards of trustees, boards of other educational institutions, library agencies, and local political subdivisions are hereby empowered to co-operate, merge or combine in providing library service.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 260, 1967.

**44-226. Cities or towns with existing tax-supported libraries —notification—exemption from county taxes.** After the establishment of a county free library as provided in this act, the governing body of any city or town which has an existing tax-supported public library may notify the board of county commissioners that such city or town does not desire to be a part of the county library system. Such notification shall exempt the property in such city or town from liability for taxes for county library purposes.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-227. "City" defined.** Wherever the word "city" is used in this act it means city or town.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

**44-228. Continued existence of all public libraries.** All public libraries heretofore established shall continue in existence, subject to the changes in administration provided herein.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 260, L. 1967.

## CHAPTER 3—CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(Repealed—Section 12, Chapter 260, Laws of 1967)

### **44-301 to 44-303. (5049 to 5051) Repealed.**

#### Repeal

These sections (Sec. 1, p. 110, L. 1883; Secs. 5039 to 5041, Pol. C. 1895; Sec. 1, p. 229, L. 1897; Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1931; Sec. 1,

Ch. 61, L. 1947), relating to the establishment of free public libraries, were repealed by Sec. 12, Ch. 260, Laws 1967.

## CHAPTER 4—STATE LAW LIBRARY

**44-401. State law library established.** The library heretofore known as a department of the state library of Montana and called "the law library," shall become a separate and distinct library designated the "state law library of the state of Montana." The collections of laws, decisions of courts, law reports, text books, legal periodicals and miscellaneous books and journals together with pamphlets, papers, maps, charts and manuscripts now in the law library in the capitol building or belonging to such law library, or hereafter acquired by or donated to the law library, shall constitute the library hereby established, and the title to all of the property constituting the same, now or hereafter, shall be in the state of Montana, subject to the custody and control of the library board established herein.

**44-402. Location—board of trustees.** The state law library of the state of Montana shall be located in the capitol building at Helena, Montana, and shall be in the immediate custody and subject to the control of a board of seven (7) trustees, consisting of the chief justice and the associate justices of the supreme court of the state of Montana, the secretary of state and the state auditor. The members of the board shall serve as such members without compensation and their terms shall be identical with the term of office of the chief justice and of the several associate justices from time to time.

**44-403. Powers and duties of board.** The powers and duties of said board are as follows:

(1) To make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the government of the board and for the government and administration of the state law library, including rules designating when and for what periods of time the library shall be open to the public, and the office hours of the library.

(2) To appoint a librarian and prescribe the duties of such librarian, when not otherwise provided for by law.

(3) To sell or exchange duplicate copies of books and pay the moneys arising therefrom into the state law library fund.

(4) To see that the books and other properties of the library are maintained in good order and repair, and are protected from theft or injury.

(5) To draw from the state treasury at any time when needed for the legitimate expenses in maintaining and operat-

ing the library and acquiring books, reports, journals and other works and properties therefore, including complete sets of statutory laws and codified laws of the United States of America and of the several states of the union, and other jurisdictions, any moneys in the fund and available for such purposes.

(6) To report to the governor, biennially, a statement of all important transactions of the board, and of the operations of the library, with suggestions and recommendations as to what the board deems necessary for the increased utility and efficiency of the library.

(7) To establish such lawful relations and working arrangements with the library of congress of the United States, with the copyright office therein, and with the superintendent of documents of the United States, as may be for the benefit and advantage of the state law library and promote the acquisition of books and other works from such sources as may be useful to those resorting to the facilities of the state law library.

**44-404. Librarian—term of office—bond.** The librarian appointed by the board shall hold office for the term of two (2) years, unless sooner removed by a majority vote of the trustees.

**44-405. Duties of librarian — regulations for use of library.** It shall be the duty of the librarian:

(1) to be in attendance at the library during office hours,

(2) to purchase, under the direction of the board of trustees, all compilations of statutory laws, reports of decisions of courts of last resort, or intermediate courts, in the several states of the union, the national reporters, series, and all encyclopedias, digests, text books and miscellaneous books, maps, charts, legal periodicals and a complete collection of all the laws of the territory of Montana, the state of Montana, furniture, fixtures, and supplies,

(3) to number and stamp all books, digests, encyclopedias, printed works, maps, papers and pamphlets belonging to the library, for their ready and accurate identification and to keep a complete catalogue thereof in accordance with catalogue systems approved for law libraries,

(4) to have well and properly bound all books, and also, all pamphlets and papers when directed thereto by the trustees,

(5) to keep a register of all books and property belonging to the library, the additions made each year, and the cost thereof,

(6) to keep a register of all books or other property taken from the library under the authority of the trustees,

(7) to establish and maintain a system of domestic and foreign exchange of books, maps, or other publications which are properly the subject of collections for a state law library, and to obtain from the secretary of state and other state departments, boards, bureaus, commissions and agencies upon request, such numbers of all state publications as may be needed to supply the demands of the system established.

(8) The state law library shall be maintained and operated for the use of the members of the supreme court, the members of the legislative assembly while in session as such and the several officers of the senate and of the house of representatives, for state officers and employees, for members of the bar of supreme courts of other states while in attendance before the supreme court of Montana, and members of the general public agreeing to the rules and regulations established by the board of trustees and enforced by the librarian. All persons, during library hours, are permitted to examine the library and its contents and to work within the library quarters. During sessions of the legislative assembly, the members thereof may take books from the library, and state officials may do so at any time. Law books may be taken from the library to a court room by any attorney-at-law, and must be returned to the library before five (5) o'clock P.M. of the same day. No book or other work that cannot be readily replaced in case of loss shall be removed from the state law library except by state officials, and by them only in pursuit of their official duties and subject to recall by the librarian on arrangements made by the borrower with the librarian.

Books taken by members of the legislative assembly must be returned at the close of the session; and before the state auditor draws his warrant in favor of any member of the legislative assembly for his last week's salary, he must be satisfied that such member has returned all books taken by him and paid for any injuries thereto.

The state auditor, if notified by the librarian that any officer has failed to return books taken by him within the time prescribed by the rules, and after demand made, must not draw his warrant for the salary of such officer until the return is made, or three (3) times the value of the books, or of any injuries thereto, has been paid to the librarian.

**44-406. Injury to books or failure to return—liability.** Every person who defaces, tears, or otherwise injures any book or other work, or who fails to return any book taken by him, is liable to the state in three (3) times the value thereof if such book is not replaced by a new one, or another book of identical

title, in good order and condition, and no statute of limitations shall ever be effective against the claim of the state under this section.

**44-407. Repealed.**

**44-408. Assistant librarian.** The librarian of the state law library is hereby authorized and empowered to employ an assistant who shall, in addition to the duties imposed by the provisions of this act, serve and act as a law clerk for the justices of the supreme court and shall perform any and all other duties prescribed by the supreme court.

**44-409. Salary of librarian and assistant librarian.** The salary of the librarian of the state law library and of the assistant librarian, shall be fixed in such amount as the board of trustees shall deem reasonable.

**44-410. Accounts—approval.** All accounts for the proofing and printing of books, legal periodicals, library collections, furniture, fixtures and supplies must be prepared by the librarian, submitted to and approved by at least one (1) member of the board of trustees.

**44-411. Index to session laws.** It shall be the duty of the state law librarian to prepare a suitable index of all the laws and resolutions passed or adopted at each session of the legislative assembly of Montana. Such index shall be a thorough index of such laws and resolutions, and of each subject contained in such volume; and for the purpose of procuring and preserving uniformity in such indexes, the index of each succeeding volume of the session laws shall conform, as near as practicable, with those of the volumes preceding it, prepared by said librarian. The librarian shall also prepare for each volume of such laws an additional index, showing what sections of the several codes of this state, and what session laws have been amended, repealed, altered, or changed by any laws published in that volume, which shall be known and designated as the "code index," and to deliver the said indexes to the secretary of state as soon as completed and all indexes prepared by the librarian for the succeeding volumes of session laws shall be published therein.

**44-412. Assistance in preparing index.** The law librarian is authorized and empowered to engage and employ stenographic assistance in the preparation of such indexes.

## CHAPTER 5—HISTORICAL SOCIETY—LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

- Section 44-516. Historical society continued and perpetuated—purposes.
- 44-517. Definition of terms.
- 44-518. Library and museum independent of other state institutions.
- 44-519. Board of trustees—appointment and terms of members.
- 44-520. Qualifications of trustees.
- 44-521. Executive committee of trustees.
- 44-522. Reimbursement of trustees.
- 44-523. Powers and duties of trustees.
- 44-524. Director's responsibility—assistants and employees.
- 44-525. Official seal of society.
- 44-526. Furnishings and fittings in veterans' and pioneers' building.
- 44-527. Fund raising drives—revenues and receipts.
- 44-528. Fine arts' commission abolished.
- 44-529. Admission fees for antique automobile collection—disposition of proceeds.

### **44-501 to 44-515. Repealed.**

#### **Repeal**

These sections (Sec. 1 to 15, Ch. 134, L. 1949; Secs 14, 19, Ch. 97, L. 1961), relating to the historical society and the historical library and museum, were repealed by Sec. 14, Ch. 47, Laws 1963.

Sections 46 to 48, Ch. 147, Laws 1963, purported to amend sections 44-509, 44-510, and 44-514, respectively; however, under rule of section 43-515, such amendments were void and did not revive the amended sections.

**44-516. Historical society continued and perpetuated—purposes.** The historical society of Montana, originally organized under the provisions of an act of the legislative assembly of the territory of Montana, entitled "an act to incorporate the historical society of Montana," approved February 2, 1865, and thereafter made to become the historical society of the state of Montana by an act approved March 4, 1891, entitled "an act concerning the historical society for the state of Montana and making an appropriation therefor," and by "an act to perpetuate the historical society of the state of Montana," approved March 1, 1949, is hereby continued and perpetuated as the "Montana Historical Society" and as such constitutes an agency of state government for the use, learning, culture and enjoyment of the citizens of the state and for the acquisition, preservation and protection of historical records, art archival and museum objects, historical places, sites and monuments and the

custody, maintenance and operation of the historical library, museums, art galleries, and historical places, sites and monuments.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**Title of Act**

An act continuing and perpetuating the Montana historical society and prescribing the powers and duties of the board of trustees of the society; abolishing the Montana fine

arts' commission; and repealing sections 44-501, 44-502, 44-503, 44-504, 44-505, 44-506, 44-507, 44-508, 44-509, 44-510, 44-511, 44-512, 44-513, 44-514, 44-515, 19-119, 19-120, and 19-121, R. C. M. 1947.

**44-517. Definition of terms.** As used in this act, (1) "Society" means the Montana historical society and includes

- (a) The historical and miscellaneous libraries and their contents;
  - (b) Any museums and art galleries, and their contents, acquired by the trustees;
  - (c) Any historical places, sites or monuments acquired or developed by the society;
  - (d) Any divisions, departments and activities operated in conjunction with the historical library as are established by the trustees; and
  - (e) Any books, papers, maps, charts, manuscripts, photographs, writings, records, objects of history and art, paintings, engravings, relics, collections of artifacts and minerals, furniture or fixtures acquired by the trustees.
- (2) "Trustees" means the board of trustees of the Montana historical society.
- (3) "Committee" means the executive committee of the board of trustees of the Montana historical society.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-518. Library and museum independent of other state institutions.** Any historical library or museum administered by the society in accordance with the provisions of this act shall be independent of any other library, museum, or gallery owner, maintained or operated by the state of Montana.

History: En Sec. 3, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-519. Board of trustees—appointment and terms of members.** The government and administration of the society is vested in a board of fifteen (15) trustees, appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the senate. Three (3) each of the or-

iginal members of the board shall be appointed for one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) year terms. An appointment to replace a member whose term has expired shall be for five (5) years. An appointment to replace a member whose term has not expired shall be for the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

Removal of Director of State Historical Society.

Under this section and sections 44-523 and 59-405 the power to remove the director of the state historical society lies in the board of trustees of

the state historical society and it may do so without notice or opportunity to be heard. State ex rel. MacGivra v. District Court of the First Judicial District, — M —, 418 P 2d 874-876.

**44-520. Qualifications of trustees.** Trustees shall be appointed because of their special interest in the accomplishment of the purposes of the society, their fitness for discharging these duties, and their willingness to devote time and effort in the public interest and to serve without compensation. The governor shall in so far as possible, appoint trustees from the various geographical areas of the state.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-521. Executive committee of trustees.** The trustees may select an executive committee of five (5) trustees and delegate to the committee such functions in aid of the efficient administration of the affairs of the society as the trustees deem advisable.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-522. Reimbursement of trustees.** The trustees shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for mileage.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-523. Powers and duties of trustees.** The powers and duties of the trustees are as follows:

(1) To elect annually from among their number a president, a vice-president, and a secretary.

(2) To adopt bylaws for their own government, and to make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the proper administration of the society in the interests of preserving the rich heritage of this state and its people.

(3) To appoint a director, fix his salary, and prescribe his duties and responsibilities.

(4) To create such classes of memberships in the society as

they deem desirable, to determine the qualifications for any class of membership, and to set the fees to be paid for such memberships.

(5) To sell or exchange publications and surplus copies of books or other museum or art objects and use the money arising from such sales for the operation of the society and for the acquisition of historical materials and objects of art.

(6) To see that the collections and properties of the society are maintained in good order and repair.

(7) To report to the governor and the legislature biennially. The report shall include a statement of all important transactions and acquisitions, with suggestions and recommendations for the better realization of the purposes of the society and the improvement of its collections and services.

(8) To accept, receive and administer in the name of the society, any gifts, donations, properties, securities, bequests and legacies that may be made to the society. Moneys received by donation, gift, bequest or legacy, unless otherwise provided by the donor, shall be deposited in the state treasury and used for the general operation of the society.

(9) To collect, assemble, preserve and display where appropriate, all obtainable books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, journals, diaries, papers, business records, paintings, drawings, engravings, photographs, statuary, models, relics, and all other materials illustrative of the history of Montana in particular, and generally of the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rocky Mountain and Northern Great Plains regions, and of the United States of America when pertinent; to procure from pioneers, early settlers and others, narratives of the events relative to the early settlement of Montana, the Indian occupancy, Indian and other wars, overland travel and immigration to the territories of the west and all other related documents of Montana's history, development and society; to gather contemporary information, specimens, and all other materials which exhibit faithfully the distinctive historical and contemporary characteristics of the area with particular attention to Indian, military and pioneer artifacts and implements, to collect and preserve such natural history objects as fossils, plants, minerals and animals; to collect and preserve books, maps, manuscripts and other materials as will tend to facilitate historical, scientific, and antiquarian research; to promote the study of Montana history by lectures and publications; to generally foster and encourage the fine arts and cultural activities in Montana; to receive for and on behalf of the state by donation or otherwise, art objects of any kind and description and to exhibit

and circulate such objects in Montana and elsewhere; and to microfilm papers or documents in danger of disappearance or injury.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

Removal of Director of State Historical Society.

Under this section and sections 44-519 and 59-405 the power to remove the director of the state historical society lies in the board of trustees

of the state historical society and it may do so without notice or opportunity to be heard. State ex rel. MacGivra v. District Court of the First Judicial District, — M —, 418 P 2d 874, 876.

#### **44-524. Director's responsibility—assistants and employees.**

The director is fully responsible for the immediate direction, management and control of the society, subject to the general programs and policies established by the trustees. The director may appoint and employ all assistants and employees required for the management of the historical society, subject to approval by the trustees.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

#### **References**

State ex rel. MacGivra v. District Court of the First Judicial District, — M —, 418 P 2d 874, 875.

**44-525. Official seal of society.** The design of the official seal of the society shall be substantially as follows: A central group representing a covered immigrant wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, showing prairie in the foreground, mountains in the background and directly beneath it the figures "1865." The seal shall be two inches in diameter and surrounded by the words, "Montana Historical Society Seal."

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-526. Furnishings and fittings in veterans' and pioneers' building.** The offices, library, museums and galleries, and quarters for the activities of the society in the veterans' and pioneers' memorial building shall be decorated, fitted, furnished and maintained in dignity and in harmony with the purposes of the society. All furniture and fittings for storage and the use of the library shall be, in design and function, adapted to the efficient and dignified operation and administration of the activities of the society.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

**44-527. Fund raising drives—revenues and receipts.** The society may engage in such fund raising drives and public con-

tribution campaigns as will contribute to its continued development and support. It may produce, reproduce, sell, or exchange art objects, film, books, photographs, magazines, pamphlets, and museum objects which are appropriate and will bring credit to the society and to Montana. It may also receive fees, commissions and royalties on the display and sales of arts and crafts. All profits, revenues, royalties or fees received in any such manner shall be deposited in the state treasury and may not be used for any purposes other than the improvement, development and operation of the society.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

#### **Sale of Ancient Warrants.**

Chapter 134, Laws 1963, effective until June 30, 1965, provides for sale of certain old territorial and state warrants by the territorial centennial commission. The act reads: "An act to authorize and direct the state auditor to deliver certain warrants to the Montana territorial centennial commission.

"Section 1. The state auditor is hereby authorized and directed to deliver to the Montana territorial centennial commission all remaining territorial warrants and all state warrants dated prior to 1899 in his possession. The commission shall

sell these warrants in any manner they see fit, upon authorization by the state controller.

"Section 2. All money realized from the sale of these warrants shall be deposited with the state treasurer to the credit of the Montana territorial centennial commission and warrants issued upon authority of officers of the commission.

"Section 3. This act is effective from July 1, 1963, to June 30, 1965. On June 30, 1965, the existence of the commission shall cease, and all moneys of the commission shall be transferred to the state general fund."

**44-528. Fine arts' commission abolished.** The Montana fine arts' commission is abolished. All records, property and moneys of the Montana fine arts' commission are transferred to the society.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 47, L. 1963.

#### **Repealing Clause**

Section 14 of Ch. 47, Laws 1963 read "Sections 44-501, 44-502, 44-503, 44-504, 44-505, 44-506, 44-507, 44-508, 44-509, 44-

510, 44-511, 44-512, 44-513, 44-514, 44-515, 19-119, 19-120, and 19-121, R. C. M. 1947, are repealed."

**44-529. Admission fees for antique automobile collection—disposition of proceeds.** An admission fee shall be set by the board of trustees of the Montana historical society and paid by patrons of the antique Ford automobile collection. Admission fee proceeds up to the amount of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) per fiscal year shall be deposited in the general fund. Proceeds over such amount each fiscal year shall be deposited in the Montana historical society account in the earmarked revenue fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1967.

**Title of Act.**

An act to appropriate money from the general fund to the Montana historical society to lease, operate and maintain a building to house the antique Ford automobile collection for the biennium ending June 30,

1969.

**Appropriation.**

Section 1 of Chapter 324, Laws 1967, appropriated funds for housing the antique automobile collection during the biennium ending June 30, 1969.

**CHAPTER 6—INTERSTATE LIBRARY COMPACT**

Section 44-601. Text of library compact.

44-602. Executive officer of state library commission as administrator.

**44-601. Text of library compact.** The Interstate Library Compact is hereby approved, enacted into law, and entered into by the state of Montana, which compact is in full as follows:

**INTERSTATE LIBRARY COMPACT**

**Article I. Policy and Purpose**

Because the desire for the services provided by libraries transcends governmental boundaries and can most effectively be satisfied by giving such services to communities and people regardless of jurisdictional lines, it is the policy of the state's party to this compact to co-operate and share their responsibilities; to authorize co-operation and sharing with respect to those types of library facilities and services which can be more economically or efficiently developed and maintained on a co-operative basis; and to authorize co-operation and sharing among localities, states and others in providing joint or co-operative library services in areas where the distribution of population or of existing and potential library resources make the provision of library service on an interstate basis the most effective way of providing adequate and efficient service.

**Article II. Definitions**

As used in this compact:

(a) "Public library agency" means any unit or agency of local or state government operating or having power to operate a library.

(b) "Private library agency" means any nongovernmental entity which operates or assumes a legal obligation to operate a library.

(c) "Library agreement" means a contract establishing an interstate library district pursuant to this compact or providing for the joint or co-operative furnishing of library services.

### Article III. Interstate Library Districts

(a) Any one or more public library agencies in a party state in co-operation with any public library agency or agencies in one or more other party states may establish and maintain an interstate library district. Subject to the provisions of this compact and any other laws of the party states which pursuant hereto remain applicable, such district may establish, maintain and operate some or all of the library facilities and services for the area concerned in accordance with the terms of a library agreement therefor. Any private library agency or agencies within an interstate library district may co-operate therewith, assume duties, responsibilities and obligations thereto, and receive benefits therefrom as provided in any library agreement to which such agency or agencies become party.

(b) Within an interstate library district, and as provided by a library agreement, the performance of library functions may be undertaken on a joint or co-operative basis or may be undertaken by means of one or more arrangements between or among public or private library agencies for the extension of library privileges to the use of facilities or services operated or rendered by one or more of the individual library agencies.

(c) If a library agreement provides for joint establishment, maintenance or operation of library facilities or services by an interstate library district, such district shall have power to do any one or more of the following in accordance with such library agreement:

1. Undertake, administer and participate in programs or arrangements for securing, lending or servicing books and other publications, any other materials suitable to be kept or made available by libraries, library equipment or for the dissemination of information about libraries, the value and significance of particular items therein, and the use thereof.

2. Accept for any of its purposes under this compact any and all donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, (conditional or otherwise), from any state or the United States or any subdivision or agency thereof, or interstate agency, or from any institution, person, firm or corporation, and receive, utilize and dispose of the same.

3. Operate mobile library units or equipment for the purpose of rendering bookmobile service within the district.

4. Employ professional, technical, clerical and other personnel, and fix terms of employment, compensation and other appropriate benefits; and where desirable, provide for the in-service training of such personnel.

5. Sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction.

6. Acquire, hold, and dispose of any real or personal property or any interest or interests therein as may be appropriate to the rendering of library service.

7. Construct, maintain and operate a library, including any appropriate branches thereof.

8. Do such other things as may be incidental to or appropriate for the carrying out of any of the foregoing powers.

#### **Article IV. Interstate Library Districts, Governing Board**

(a) An interstate library district which establishes, maintains or operates any facilities or services in its own right shall have a governing board which shall direct the affairs of the district and act for it in all matters relating to its business. Each participating public library agency in the district shall be represented on the governing board which shall be organized and conduct its business in accordance with provision therefor in the library agreement. But in no event shall a governing board meet less often than twice a year.

(b) Any private library agency or agencies party to a library agreement establishing an interstate library district may be represented on or advise with the governing board of the district in such manner as the library agreement may provide.

#### **Article V. State Library Agency Co-operation**

Any two or more state library agencies of two or more of the party states may undertake and conduct joint or co-operative library programs, render joint or co-operative library services, and enter into and perform arrangements for the co-operative or joint acquisition, use, housing and disposition of items or collections of materials which, by reason of expense, rarity, specialized nature, or infrequency of demand therefor would be appropriate for central collection and shared use. Any such programs, services or arrangements may include provision for the exercise on a co-operative or joint basis of any power exercisable by an interstate library district and an agreement embodying any such program, service or arrangement shall contain provisions covering the subjects detailed in Article VI of this compact for interstate library agreements.

#### **Article VI. Library Agreements**

(a) In order to provide for any joint or co-operative undertaking pursuant to this compact, public and private library

agencies may enter into library agreements. Any agreement executed pursuant to the provisions of this compact shall, as among the parties to the agreement:

1. Detail the specific nature of the services, programs, facilities, arrangements or properties to which it is applicable.

2. Provide for the allocation of costs and other financial responsibilities.

3. Specify the respective rights, duties, obligations and liabilities of the parties.

4. Set forth the terms and conditions for duration, renewal, termination, abrogation, disposal of joint or common property, if any, and all other matters which may be appropriate to the proper effectuation and performance of the agreement.

(b) No public or private library agency shall undertake to exercise itself, or jointly with any other library agency, by means of a library agreement any power prohibited to such agency by the constitution or statutes of its state.

(c) No library agreement shall become effective until filed with the compact administrator of each state involved, and approved in accordance with Article VIII of this compact.

## **Article VII. Approval of Library Agreements**

(a) Every library agreement made pursuant to this compact shall, prior to and as a condition precedent to its entry into force, be submitted to the attorney general of each state in which a public library agency party thereto is situated, who shall determine whether the agreement is in proper form and compatible with the laws of his state. The attorneys general shall approve any agreement submitted to them unless they shall find that it does not meet the conditions set forth herein and shall detail in writing addressed to the governing bodies of the public library agencies concerned the specific respects in which the proposed agreement fails to meet the requirements of law. Failure to disapprove an agreement submitted hereunder within ninety days of its submission shall constitute approval thereof.

(b) In the event that a library agreement made pursuant to this compact shall deal in whole or in part with the provisions of services or facilities with regard to which an officer or agency of the state government has constitutional or statutory powers of control, the agreement shall, as a condition precedent to its entry into force, be submitted to the state officer or agency having such power of control and shall be approved or disapproved by him or it as to all matters within his or its jurisdiction in

the same manner and subject to the same requirements governing the action of the attorneys general pursuant to paragraph (a) of this article. This requirement of submission and approval shall be in addition to and not in substitution for the requirement of submission to and approval by the attorneys general.

### **Article VIII. Other Laws Applicable**

Nothing in this compact or in any library agreement shall be construed to supersede, alter or otherwise impair any obligation imposed on any library by otherwise applicable law, nor to authorize the transfer or disposition of any property held in trust by a library agency in a manner contrary to the terms of such trust.

### **Article IX. Appropriations and Aid**

(a) Any public library agency party to a library agreement may appropriate funds to the interstate library district established thereby in the same manner and to the same extent as to a library wholly maintained by it and, subject to the laws of the state in which such public library agency is situated, may pledge its credit in support of an interstate library district established by the agreement.

(b) Subject to the provisions of the library agreement pursuant to which it functions and the laws of the states in which such district is situated, an interstate library district may claim and receive any state and federal aid which may be available to library agencies.

### **Article X. Compact Administrator**

Each state shall designate a compact administrator with whom copies of all library agreements to which his state or any public library agency thereof is party shall be filed. The administrator shall have such other powers as may be conferred upon him by the laws of his state and may consult and co-operate with the compact administrators of other party states and take such steps as may effectuate the purposes of this compact. If the laws of a party state so provide, such state may designate one or more deputy compact administrators in addition to its compact administrator.

### **Article XI. Entry into Force and Withdrawal**

(a) This compact shall enter into force and effect immediately upon its enactment into law by any two states. Thereafter, it shall enter into force and effect as to any other state upon the enactment thereof by such state.

(b) This compact shall continue in force with respect to a party state and remain binding upon such state until six months after such state has given notice to each other party state of the repeal thereof. Such withdrawal shall not be construed to relieve any party to a library agreement entered into pursuant to this compact from any obligation of that agreement prior to the end of its duration as provided therein.

## Article XII. Construction and Severability

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state party thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1967.

### Title of Act.

An act approving and enacting into law the Interstate Library Compact and designat-

ing the executive officer of the state library commission as compact administrator for said compact.

**44-602. Executive officer of state library commission as administrator.** The executive officer of the state library commission shall be the compact administrator of the Interstate Library Compact.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 1967.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES

**75-1316. Libraries.** He (the Superintendent of Public Instruction) shall prepare and furnish to school officers, through the county superintendents, lists of publications approved by him as suitable for school libraries; such list shall contain also the lowest price at which such publications can be purchased and the terms. He shall also prescribe rules and instructions for the proper care and use of school libraries, and such other information relative thereto as he shall think needful.

**75-1514. School libraries.** He (the County Superintendent of Schools) shall exercise supervision over the school libraries of the county, and aid in the selection of books for the same.

**75-2801. Discipline . . .** any pupil who shall, in any way cut, deface, or otherwise injure any . . . books belonging to the (school) district library, shall be liable to supervision and punishment.

**75-3201. Location and control of libraries.** The library shall be under the control of the board of trustees, and must be kept, when practicable, in the schoolhouse, and shall be for the use of the pupils and all residents of the district.

**75-3202. Rules-reports.** The trustees shall be held accountable for the proper care and preservation of the library, and shall make all needful rules and regulations not provided for by the superintendent of public instruction, and not inconsistent therewith; and they shall report annually to the county superintendent all library statistics which may be required by the blanks furnished for the purpose by the superintendent of public instruction.

**75-3203. Selection of books.** All books shall be selected by the county superintendent and school trustees, acting together, from lists approved by the superintendent of public instruction. It shall be the duty of such county superintendent in his visits to inspect the library, and to make such suggestions regarding its use and care as he may deem advisable. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of public instruction to formulate the rules and regulations for the school libraries, and furnish to the county superintendent, from time to time, such instruction and information as will make the use of the library most effective.

**75-2011. Creation of library of visual teaching aids.** There is hereby created a library of visual teaching aids for the pur-

pose of acquiring through purchase, donation, lease, loan, gift, or manufacture, a depository consisting of instructional sound films, slides, charts, graphs, models, pictures, dioramas and other visual teaching aids which may be approved by the state superintendent of public instruction. These materials will be made available on a rental fee basis, plus transportation, to and from the elementary and secondary schools and educational groups within the state.

**75-4144. (1262.43) Selection of reference and library books.**

All reference and library books of the high school shall be selected by the district superintendent of schools with the approval of the board of trustees; but in districts where a district superintendent is not employed the principal of schools shall select such reference and library books likewise with the approval of the board.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 148,  
L. 1931.

Collateral References  
Schools and School Districts  
76.  
78 C.J.S. Schools and School  
Districts § 269.

## MISCELLANEOUS LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**11-1006. Public bodies' and institutions' authority to receive property or gifts . . .** and all public libraries . . . are hereby granted the power and authority to accept, receive, take, hold and possess any gift, donation, grant, devise or bequest of property, real or personal, and the right to own, hold, work and improve the same.

**15-104. Purposes for which private corporations may be formed.** The purposes for which . . . private corporations . . . may be formed are:

3 . . . the maintenance of a library. . . .

**84-202. Exemptions from taxation.** The property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, public libraries, such other property as is used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies, for educational purposes, places of actual religious worship, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity, evi-

dence of debt secured by mortgages of record upon real or personal property in the state of Montana, and public art galleries and public observatories not used or held for private or corporate profit, are exempt from taxation, but not more land than is necessary for such purpose is exempt; provided, that the terms public art galleries and public observatories used in this act shall mean only such art galleries and observatories whether of public or private ownership, as are open to the public, without charge or fee at all reasonable hours, and are used for the purpose of education only, and also when a clubhouse or building erected by or belonging to any society or organization of honorably discharged United States soldiers, sailors or marines who served in army or navy of United States, is used exclusively for educational, fraternal, benevolent or purely public charitable purposes, rather than for gain or profit, together with the library and furniture necessarily used in any such building.

**93-5814. Specific exemptions.** In addition . . . there shall be exempt . . .

10. All courthouses, jails, public offices, and buildings, lots, grounds, and personal property, the fixtures, furniture, books, papers, and appurtenances belonging and pertaining to the courthouse, jail, and public offices belonging to any county of this state, and all cemeteries, public squares, parks, and places, public buildings, town halls, public markets, buildings for the use of fire departments and military organizations, and the lots and grounds thereto belonging and appertaining, owned or held by any town or incorporated city, or dedicated by such city or town to health, ornament, or public use, or for the use of any fire or military company organized under the laws of the state.

### **County Library budgets.**

### **16-1904. Hearings on budget—adoption—fixing tax levies.**

(2) . . . and provided further that the amount appropriated and authorized to be expended for any item contained in such budget, except for capital outlay, election expenses, expenditures from county poor funds, and payment of emergency warrants and interest thereof, must not exceed by more than five per centum (5%) the amount appropriated and authorized for such item under the appropriation contained in the budget approved and adopted for the fiscal year immediately preceding.













